

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 222142

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY L:MBFELDMAN:MF

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

ARA:MR. SHLAUDEMAM

S/S-O: G. TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222142

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, BF

SUBJ: EXTRADITION - ROBERT L. VESCO

REF: NASSU 1697

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ACTING SECRETARY

1. I MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS (KEENEY), ARA, AND L TO REVIEW QUESTIONS OF STRATEGY AND COORDINATION RAISED REFTEL AND RELATED MATTERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT USG SHOULD SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE TO LOCAL COUNSEL AND PARTICULARLY TO BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIARY. HENRY PETERSON WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION WITH STATE, AND CRIMINAL DIVISION WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. ATTORNEY TO AVOID CONFUSION IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH WALLACE-WHITFIELD. ALL MATTERS OF SENSITIVITY TO BE RAISED WITH WHITFIELD WILL BE COORDINATED WITH STATE AND AMBASSADOR BEFORE HAND.

2. WE ALSO DISCUSSED U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THIS MATTER WITH REFERENCE TO THE ISSUES OF BAIL AND PROSECUTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 222142

OFFENSES OTHER THAN THE ONE FOR WHICH EXTRADITION IS REQUESTED. WE ALL AGREED THAT PRIORITY IN THIS MATTER IS U.S. OBJECTIVE TO OBTAIN THE RETURN OF VESCO FOR PROSECUTION AND THAT BEST MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUR RE-

LATIONS WITH GCOB IS TO REMOVE VESCO PROBLEM BY RETURNING HIM TO U.S. THE AMOUNT OF BAIL THAT IS APPROPRIATE DEPENDS UPON ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WE SHOULD SEEK SUFFICIENT BAIL TO ENSURE THAT VESCO WILL NOT FLEE THE JURISDICTION. WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE A JOINT RECOMMENDATION ON THIS MATTER FROM YOU AND THE JUSTICE TEAM BY EARLY MONDAY SO THAT WE CAN COORDINATE WITH JUSTICE AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE BEFORE THE HEARING ON TUESDAY.

3. I ALSO MADE CLEAR, AND JUSTICE AGREED, THAT WE MUST RESPECT OUR TREATY COMMITMENTS AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSURE BAHAMIANS THAT WE WILL MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE 1931 U.K. EXTRADITION TREATY WHICH PRECLUDES PROSECUTION FOR OFFENSES OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH EXTRADITION IS GRANTED IF COMMITTED PRIOR TO EXTRADITION. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

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